

## LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE ACT 88:

### ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEROIN AND OPIOID PREVENTION AND EDUCATION

Date: September 10, 2019  
Time: 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.  
Location: Louisiana Department of Health  
628 North 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Bienville Building, Room 118  
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

#### Minutes:

1. **Call to Order** - Dr. Hussey called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.
2. **Roll Call** – Taken by Keetsie Gunnels

*Present:*

Dr. James Hussey (Chair) – Dept. of Health  
Dr. Allison Smith – Board of Regents  
Sheral Kellar –Workforce Commission  
Monica Taylor – Attorney General’s Office  
Mona Michelli– Dept. of Children and Family Services  
Michael Comeaux – Dept. of Education  
Judge Jules Edwards – 15<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court  
Major Bob Brown – State Police

*Proxies Present:*

Julie Freeman on behalf of Thomas Travis – Dept. of Insurance  
Shelley Edgerton on behalf of Blake LeBlanc– Dept. of Public Safety and Corrections

*Absent:*

Linda Theriot – Veterans Affairs  
Troy Prevot – Occupational Health Consultants, LLC  
Senator Regina Barrow – Louisiana State Senate

3. **Approval of September 10, 2019 agenda** – Dr. Hussey reviewed the September 10 agenda. Agenda approved without opposition on motion by Judge Edwards and second by Monica Taylor.
4. **Approval of June 20, 2019 minutes** – Dr. Hussey asked members to review minutes from the June 20, 2019 meeting. Minutes approved without opposition on motion by Mona Michelli and second by Judge Edwards.
5. **Introductions** – Keetsie Gunnels advised that Blake LeBlanc is a newly appointed Council member on behalf of the Department of Public Safety and Corrections, replacing Dr. John Morrison. Blake is out of town for a conference and is represented today by Shelley Edgerton.
6. **Legislative Review and Update** –
  - a. Dr. Hussey discussed SCR 25 which was passed in the 2019 Legislative Session and mandates the study of scrambler therapy as an opioid alternative for the treatment of pain. A report to the legislature is required no later than February 1, 2020. Dr. Hussey has been charged with this study and is in the process of forming a committee to study the technology, which operates on electric currents. He plans to reach out to medical professionals in the pain management field at LSU and Tulane, to Dr. Bachhuber with

Medicaid, and to a private provider in Shreveport, in addition to several others. The treatment was developed to treat patients with cancer and spinal pain but is not currently covered by insurance. Dr. Hussey will keep the group posted on his group's findings.

- b. Dr. Hussey reported that HCR 71 which was also passed in the 2019 Legislative Session refers to methadone providers in the State of Louisiana. There are currently only ten methadone providers in the state and ten providers do not provide sufficient access statewide. HCR 71 requests the La. Dept. of Health to issue regulations for the establishment of new opioid treatment programs. Judge Edwards asked if methadone providers in Louisiana provide medication only. Dr. Hussey explained that they do not provide medication only but also provide other services, including counseling. Monica Taylor asked that Dr. Hussey provide the Council with research that suggests that medication only is sufficient treatment for opioid addicts to recover. Sheral Kellar asked if that research came from the PEW Foundation. Dr. Hussey advised that it did come from PEW and he would send it to the Council

7. **LDH Opioid Response Plan Update** – Dr. Janice Petersen, on behalf of Karen Stubbs, presented a two-page summary of the statewide Opioid Response Plan which is being released to the Council today. The two-page summary is available for all attendees and a hard copy of the 44 page plan is being presented today to HOPE Council members. Dr. Petersen advised that the Department's Plan is based on five pillars which are the stepping stones for addressing the opioid epidemic in Louisiana. She asked the audience to send in any comments on the Plan as future editions will be forthcoming and indicated that the entire plan would be available on the Department's website. The link for the plan will be circulated asap.
8. **Louisiana Opioid Action Summit** – Nell Wilson reported that the Louisiana Opioid Action Summit was held last week, September 4-6, 2019, in Slidell, Louisiana at the Harbor Center. She acknowledged that many of the attendees present today were at the Summit. The Summit had about 350 attendees per day, 15 exhibitors, 15 plenary speakers, 18 break-out sessions, seven hours of meeting credits for CEU's and CME's and a visit from the governor. Nell concluded that the three main take aways from the summit were: (1) the conversation about shame and stigma needs to continue (2) there is a continuing need to address social determinants (3) those addressing the opioid epidemic need to meet people where they are. Most significant quote of the Summit came from Dr. Sizer with Northeast Delta Human Services Authority who said "You cannot solve a problem at the same level of consciousness that created it." Nell advised that the takeaways will be made available as will the presentations from the summit. Monica Taylor commented that law enforcement personnel are trained from a different perspective than meeting people where they are. Dr. Hussey talked about a survey which concluded that word choices do affect recovery success or failure and he will share the survey with the group. He also mentioned that SUD treatment was not covered by Medicaid until 2012 and that methadone is still not currently covered.
9. **Shatterproof Overview** – Ford Baker reminded the group that at the last HOPE Council meeting he described Shatterproof as being similar to a 21<sup>st</sup> century version of Mothers Against Drunk Driving. Shatterproof is a national non-profit organization dedicated to ending the devastation addiction causes families. It was founded by Gary Mendel who lost his son to an opioid overdose. Shatterproof works to address the issues of shame and stigma related to opioid misuse and is also doing advocacy work in state legislatures for safer opioid prescribing and increased Naloxone availability. Based on feedback from 5 states on a proposed provider rating system, Shatterproof has decided to introduce a quality measurement tool under a new moniker, "ATLAS." ATLAS will

give consumers an accurate picture of what providers offer and what some patients and families said about their experience with providers. The treatment facility survey portal is planned to open in mid-October, 2019, and will close in mid-December 2019. The pilot will test viability and utility of three data sources: treatment program survey, consumer experience survey and claims data. In response to audience questions, Ford advised that pilot participation is open to all ASAM Level 1 and higher providers which does not include private practitioners of any discipline.

**10. OBH Grants Update** – Dr. Petersen advised that information sheets were provided today on the STR, SOR and COAP grants. COAP focuses on justice involved populations. Comprehensive reports on all of the grants will be coming soon. In response to an audience question, Dr. Petersen advised that the OTP's (Opioid Treatment Providers) are LDH's partner in the hub and spoke model of treatment.

**11. LODSS Update** –

- a. Jay Besse reported that LODSS is expanding what they are doing to include other drugs. They are getting ahead of the game with other drugs, including meth and more.
- b. Nell Wilson reported that OPH has been awarded \$4.9 million from the CDC for surveillance (\$1.9 million) and prevention (\$3.6 million) to continue their work from 2016. They currently work with 52 of 62 coroners to determine exact cause of death in overdose cases. OPH finds those who need care and refers them to OBH and the LGE's for treatment.

**12. Community of Caring Updates by Impact Group** –

- a. **Review of Strategies for 2019 Report** - Dr. Hussey reminded the group of the HOPE Council's shift away from the broad survey done by the Council in 2018 to the implementation of three impact groups: Health/Healthcare, Community and Public Safety.
- b. **Health/Healthcare** - Dr. Hussey is chair of the Health/Healthcare impact group and advised that they have met 3 times and have about 8-10 people in the group. They have sent out a one-page survey with 5-6 questions to the group. Early results of the survey indicate an interest in alternatives to opioids, in methods of tapering patients with chronic pain off of opioids and in decriminalization for small amounts of illegal substances.
- c. **Community Impact** -Mona Michelli is chair of the Community Impact group and advised that her group has had three meetings. She asked the group for participation, as they are the broadest reaching group and need feedback and participation from the audience. The two core interests of the Community Impact Group are: 1) prevention 2) education. They are looking in particular at educational institutions and at children and families. They also want to address the misconception that the Department of Children and Family Services acts too quickly or too slowly. The Community Impact Survey will go out at the end of the week.
- d. **Public Safety** - Jay Besse is chairman of the Public Safety impact group and acknowledged that although LDH focuses on the health side of the opioid epidemic, the Public Safety Impact group wants to bring in first responders, and law enforcement members. They are interested in the safe handling of Naloxone and in the dangers of handling illicit, counterfeit drugs, among other issues. This group wants to add members to get additional information and perspective.

**13. 2019 Interagency Coordination Plan Report** – Dr. Hussey stated that the 2018 end of year report was very labor intensive. He has already sent out a request for updated data to some HOPE Council members and others and asked for responses ASAP to prepare the 2019 report. The goal of the Council is to identify gaps, challenges and priorities in the state's response to the opioid epidemic and those efforts will be ongoing into the next year. The immediate goal is to get the information requested and put it together in time for submission to the Drug Policy Board by December 31, 2019.

**14. Public Comment** – An audience member commented that she is encouraged, as a parent, by the work of the HOPE Council in addressing the opioid crisis in the state.

- 15. Next meeting date, time, location** – Monica Taylor advised of the following: November 5 is Election Day, November 11 is Veteran’s Day and November 28 is Thanksgiving. The group agreed to meet again on Wednesday, November 13, from 1:00-3:00 pm to give official approval to the 2019 report.
- 16. Adjournment** - Dr. Hussey adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.